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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 28 totaled an estimated 17.1 billion ton-miles, 2.3 percent below the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first nine weeks of 1987 was an estimated 147.6 billion ton-miles, down 2.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 28 totaled 384,526, down 1.7 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.8 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 3.0 percent in the East and 0.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, grain showed a gain of 5,494 cars (26.1 percent), while chemicals and allied products increased by 1,873 cars (6.9 percent). Eighteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 21 totaled 94,521 trailers and/or containers, 4.4 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first eight weeks of the year was 733,186 trailers and/or containers, up 3.8 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/28/87:

	Loadings in Week ended February 28, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,566	I	5,494	26.1	I	504	1.9
Other farm products	3,285	I	356	12.2	I	49	1.5
Metallic ores	14,566	I	951	7.0	I	2,425	20.0
Coal	103,521	D	10,695	9.4	D	3,758	3.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,910	D	853	7.9	I	392	4.1
Nonmetallic minerals	9,068	D	2,114	18.9	I	210	2.4
Grain mill products	11,429	I	801	7.5	I	48	0.4
Food and kindred products	11,185	D	68	0.6	I	535	5.0
Primary forest products	10,179	D	1,273	11.1	D	12	0.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,917	I	388	4.5	I	434	5.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,548	D	837	5.8	I	565	4.4
Chemicals and allied products	28,860	I	1,873	6.9	I	1,529	5.6
Petroleum products	4,754	I	267	6.0	I	22	0.5
Stone, clay and glass products	9,116	D	347	3.7	I	656	7.8
Coke	4,187	D	678	13.9	D	40	0.9
Metals and products	8,747	D	918	9.5	I	797	10.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,183	D	1,298	5.5	I	561	2.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,761	D	193	2.2	I	261	3.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,065	D	2,770	47.5	I	467	18.0
All other carloads	72,580	I	5,316	7.9	I	1,142	1.6
LCL traffic	99	D	23	18.9	I	7	7.6
Total Cars Loaded	384,526	D	6,621	1.7	I	6,794	1.8
Corresponding week of 1986	391,147						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (9 weeks)	3,277,550	3,331,051	D 1.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
8 Weeks ended February 21	130.5	133.3	D 2.2
Week ended February 28	17.1	17.5	D 2.3
9 Weeks cumulative	147.6	150.9	D 2.2

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